St. Stephen AME Zion Church

5-WEEK VIRTUAL

HOLY SPIRIT & PENTECOST



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

EVERY WEDNESDAY | 7PM

zoom LIVE

ID: 538 095 5668
Passcode: 1001



Rev. Dianne Tam, CED Coordinator



The Promise, The Power, The Presence

A Bible Study on the Holy Spirit & Pentecost

Don’t just admire Pentecost – live in it



Week	Bible Lesson	Scriptures
1	The Promise	John 14:16-17, Acts 1:4-5
2	The Waiting Season	Acts 1:12-14, Isaiah 40:31
3 (4/22)	Pentecost Power	Acts 2:1–4, Joel 2:28–29
4 (4/29)	Purpose of Pentecost	Acts 2:5–12, Acts 2:37–41
5 (5/6)	Life in the Spirit Daily Walk	Acts 2:42–47, Galatians 5:22–23 Romans 8:1–14, Galatians 5:16

Joel 2:28–29

28 “After I have poured out my rains again, I will
pour out my Spirit upon all of you! Your sons
and daughters will prophesy; your old men will
dream dreams, and your young men see
visions. **29** And I will pour out my Spirit even on
your slaves, men and women alike,

Judah in Joel's Time – Historical Background

- Divided Kingdom: Judah (south) with Jerusalem and the Temple
- Political Pressure: Threats from Assyria and later Babylon
- National Crisis: Likely locust plague causing famine and economic collapse
- Spiritual Condition: Outward religion but inward drift from God
- Covenant Context: Blessings and judgment tied to obedience (Deuteronomy)
- Prophetic Voice: Joel calls for repentance and interprets the crisis
- Big Idea: Crisis became a call to return to God and experience restoration

Joel 2 – Biblical Background

- Prophet Joel speaks during national crisis
- Focus: Judgment, repentance, restoration, Spirit

Crisis in the Land

- Likely a devastating locust plague
- Destroyed crops and disrupted worship
- Revealed spiritual condition of the people

The Day of the Lord

- God intervenes in human history
- Brings judgment, but also mercy
- Call to awareness and repentance

Understanding “The Day of the Lord”

- The phrase appears **31 times in the Bible** — 26 in the Old Testament and 5 in the New Testament Bible Study. In the Old Testament, it often describes **divine judgment** against nations or Israel for disobedience, using imagery of destruction, darkness, and upheaval (e.g., Isaiah 2:12; Joel 2:30–32; Amos 5:18–20) GotQuestions.org**+1**. It can also point to **restoration and purification** for God’s people (e.g., Zephaniah 3:9) Bible Hub.
- In the New Testament, the term is closely linked to **Christ’s second coming** and the final judgment. Passages like 1 Thessalonians 5:2 (“like a thief in the night”) and 2 Peter 3:10 (“the heavens will disappear with a roar”) emphasize its **sudden, unexpected nature** and the **total renewal of creation** Bible Hub**+1**.

Understanding “The Day of the Lord”

Theological Significance

Theologically, the Day of the Lord:

- **Highlights God’s sovereignty** over history and the ultimate accountability of all creation Bible Hub.
- **Combines judgment and redemption** — wrath against the unrepentant and vindication for the faithful GotQuestions.org**+1**.
- **Calls for spiritual vigilance** — believers are urged to live holy lives and be ready for Christ’s return Bible Study Tools.

End-Time Context

Many eschatological interpretations place the Day of the Lord within the **final 18 months of the Great Tribulation**, marked by:

- Supernatural signs (darkened sun, blood moon, stars falling) Bible Study.
- Widespread suffering, persecution of the faithful, and mass death Bible Study.
- A period of both **judgment** and **prosperity** for some (Revelation 18:9–19) Bible Study.
- The sealing of the 144,000 and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to those who repent Bible Study.

Understanding “The Day of the Lord”

Key Passages

- **Isaiah 2:12** – God’s intervention against the proud.
- **Joel 2:30–32** – The outpouring of the Spirit and repentance.
- **Amos 5:18–20** – Judgment on those who long for God’s day.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:2** – Christ’s return like a thief.
- **2 Peter 3:10** – The heavens and earth being laid bare.

In summary: The Day of the Lord is not a single calendar day but a prophetic period or event when God’s purposes are fulfilled — a time of divine judgment, renewal, and the establishment of His eternal kingdom GotQuestions.org+2.

Note: The Day of the Lord is not meant to scare the believer – it’s mean to prepare us. Because if you belong to God, that day is not just judgment – it’s deliverance, restoration, and victory

Call to Repentance

- “Rend your heart, not your garments”
- God desires inward transformation
- Return to covenant relationship

Corporate Revival

- Entire community called to repent
- Priests intercede for the people
- Revival is communal, not just personal

Restoration Promise

- God restores what was lost
- “Restore the years the locust has eaten”
- Return of joy, provision, and dignity

Outpouring of the Spirit

- Spirit poured out on all people
- Sons, daughters, young, old
- Promise fulfilled at Pentecost

Big Picture

- Warning → Repentance → Restoration → Empowerment
- Joel bridges Old Testament prophecy to New Testament fulfillment

Acts 2:1–4

2 Seven weeks had gone by since Jesus' death and
resurrection, and the Day of Pentecost had now
arrived.[a] As the believers met together that
day, **2** suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of
a mighty windstorm in the skies above them and it
filled the house where they were meeting. **3** Then,
what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared
and settled on their heads. **4** And everyone present
was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in
languages they didn't know,[b] for the Holy Spirit
gave them this ability

Acts 2:1–4 — The Coming of the Holy Spirit

- The Promise Fulfilled at Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost

- Jewish feast (Feast of Weeks)
- 50 days after Passover
- Harvest time
- Linked to giving of the Law

A Strategic Moment

- Jews from many nations
- Multiple languages
- Jerusalem was full

The Promise Before the Power

- Jesus rose
- Appeared 40 days
- Told them to wait
- Promised the Holy Spirit
- Acts 1:8 power

Positioned for Promise

- Together in one place
- Unity
- Obedience

The Holy Spirit Arrives

- Rushing wind
- House filled
- Fire appeared
- All filled
- Spoke in tongues

What the Signs Represent

- Wind – Life of God
- Fire – Presence of God
- Tongues – Communication

Reversal of Confusion

- Babel divided
- Pentecost unified
- God restores understanding

The Birth of the Church

- Spirit in believers
- Power for all
- Gospel spreads

God Keeps His Word

- Joel 2:28 fulfilled
- Spirit poured out
- All people included

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Area	Meaning	Scripture
Presence	God dwells within you	1 Cor 6:19
Power	Strength to live right	Gal 5:16
Boldness	Courage to witness	Acts 4:31
Guidance	Led and taught by Spirit	John 14:26
Fruit	Character transformation	Gal 5:22-23
Purpose	Equipped for ministry	1 Cor 12:7

Reflection

- Am I waiting on God?
- Am I in unity?
- Am I open to the Spirit?

Final Thought

- What God promised, He fulfilled.
- He still pours out His Spirit today.

Acts 5:32 (Living Bible)

“32 And we are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to all who obey him.”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the promise of Your Holy Spirit.
Help us to wait on You and not move ahead in our own strength

Fill us afresh, O God,
And let Your Spirit guide, strengthen, and empower us
To live and walk in Your truth.

Position our hearts to receive all the You have promised,
And help us to trust Your timing.

In Jesus' name,
Amen